

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Mental Health Advisory Committee
2:00 – 4:00 PM
DRAFT

Date: November 20, 2007

Location: 4600 Valley Road, Classroom 4B, Lincoln

Interpreters: Lorelei Waldron & Dala McNew

Members Present

Melinda Brown
Jackie Prater

Technical Advisory Present

Vicki Campbell
Mandy Leamon
Jill Bird

Staff Present

Peggy Williams
Tanya Wendel

Members Absent

Vickie Frizzell Pratt
Richard McCowin
Mary Slominski

Agenda Items

1. Gather, Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Brown called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made and communication ground rules were discussed. Ms. Brown asked for any new items for the agenda.

- A. Approval of August 21, 2007 Minutes – Ms. Wendel asked for clarification regarding changes made to the by-laws. She stated that if members have missed three meetings that this needed to be submitted to the NCDHH Board for their review. Ms. Williams stated one current member's term has expired as of this month but has missed 3 consecutive meetings. Ms. Wendel suggested that we add another agenda item under D.2 F, "Discussion of Members" terms. Ms. Williams stated that she would like to add under D.2 G, "Letter Ms. Williams and Ms. Wendel sent to Dr. Brookhauser". It was suggested that if a member missed 2 consecutive meeting to send a letter to the member stating they have been missed at the meetings. Due to not having a quorum (only 2 members present) a formal motion to accept the August 21st meeting could not be made. The August 21st minutes will be reviewed at the February 2008 meeting if there is a quorum.
- B. By-Laws (amended) - As recommended from the August 21st meeting section II. B3 would be changed to read "*When a member's term has expired they can continue to serve on the committee until the position has been filled*". Members agreed with this change. Ms. Williams will make a copy of the recommended change and submit it to the Commission's board for their approval. The board will meet on December 7th.
- C. 2008 Meeting Dates – Ms. Williams passed out the 2008 MHAC meeting dates as follows: February 19th, May 20th, August 19th and November 18th. All meetings will be held from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Ms. Leamon indicated she would not be able to attend the May 20th meeting. Ms. Bird

wanted confirmation that she would attend the Lincoln meetings and Ms. Meyer would attend the Omaha meetings. Ms. Bird will make sure that Ms. Meyer's has the Omaha meeting dates.

- D. NCDHH Executive Director Report – Ms. Wendel promoted the Midwest Technology Education Expo which is being sponsored by Deaf Nation and explained that Deaf Nations has generally had 12 Expo's throughout the Nation and has increased it to 14. She stated that Nebraska is one of the smallest venues that Deaf Nations is coming to. The Commission is a sponsor for this expo as well as a large committee that is responsible for soliciting vendors/exhibitors. The committee consists of representative's from Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. She explained that Deaf Nations brings in Sorenson, IP Relay and Sprint. Service providers are welcome to have booths and encouraged members of the committee to promote this as there is an early bird exhibitor registration fee which closes March 7, 2008. The event will be an all day on Saturday, April 19, 2008, from 9:00 Am – 6:00 PM. A bus will travel throughout the State with their first stop in Kearney and then stop in Grand Island, York and proceed to Omaha. A second bus will originate from Lincoln; make a couple of stops and in Omaha. This information will be on the NDCHH web site. Hamilton Relay will sponsor the bus transportation services.

Ms. Wendel encouraged members of the committee to let us know if they are aware of anyone who is interested in having a booth or being an exhibitor and letters can be sent to them regarding this event. Ms. Bird announced that she had allocated some money for a bus as well but it will be limited to Lincoln only. This bus will leave Lincoln at 9:00 AM and come back to Lincoln at 5:00 PM. The bus will be open to anyone who wants to ride; however, the bus will not be supervised. Ms. Bird is hoping to draw people from the rural communities. She will coordinate times with Ms. Wendel. Discussion was held regarding the logistics of this transportation. Ms. Bird indicated that the bus she is sponsoring will not be a shuttle, it will only pick up in Lincoln and return from Omaha. Ms. Bird stated that they have been using the Harley Davidson store as a pick up spot as they have a big lot and have been very accommodating in allowing people to use their parking lot which is just off the interstate in Lincoln.

Ms. Wendel is hoping to have 80 exhibitors, stage performances ranging from deaf story telling with Ricky Smith and deaf mime artists. The Central Western Partnership is collaborating with all the Regional Programs so deaf children will be involved with the story telling. There will 30 minutes granted for the kids to be on stage with Mr. Smith. The Regional Program will be offering other activities such as sign language classes and other events. Ms. Wendel stated that the hard of hearing people will offer seminars at the Doubletree Hotel which is across the street from the Civic Auditorium. Cherie Roberts with the Regional Program will have a session for parents with children who have a hearing loss.

Special Acknowledgement: Ms. Brown acknowledged and thanked Ms. Pratt for all her work on the committee assisting with various project and committees. She also thanked Ms. Pratt for being the chair of the MHAC for the past couple of years.

2. Mental Health Specialist Update

- A. "A New Look at the Old" Video Tape – This tape was shown at the last meeting and Ms. Maxwell had expressed interest in using this for hospital staff training. Ms. Williams reported that Trinity Healthforce Learning, the producer of this video tape has given the Commission permission to use this video tape in our training programs as long as we inform our audiences that CEU's are not offered. Ms. Williams announced that if anyone is interested in showing this video she would be happy to assist with the training.

- B. Lasting Hope Recovery Center – Ms. Williams reported that the Center is scheduled to open on April 8, 2008. She will be coordinating efforts for the providers that have agreed to contract with the Center to meet with the Director and discuss contractual agreements. This meeting will take place either January 14th or 15.
- C. Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Workshop – Ms. Williams reported that the first Domestic Violence workshop (Phase I) which was held September 22nd was very successful with over 60 deaf and hard of hearing women in attendance. Evaluations from this workshop were provided to the committee members. Phase II of the workshop was scheduled for November 17th was cancelled due to only a few people registering. Ms. Brown stated that it would be a good idea to have a domestic violence video tape on the NCDHH web site. This would be helpful in explaining to people the importance of understanding domestic violence and would also include information about what people will learn in the workshop in an effort to attract more people to attend. Ms. Brown stated that domestic violence is a very sensitive issue within the deaf community. Rescheduling Phase II & III after the winter is an option the Domestic Violence committee is considering. Discussion was held regarding reasons why we had such low number people registering for the workshop.

Ms. Wendel recommended that we have a mental health table at the Expo and have materials about domestic violence. Also suggested was that MHAC members sit at the table and answer any questions people might have on mental health issues.

Ms. Brown brought up for discussion the need in having fiscal support for the domestic violence workshops and asked for suggestions on what we could do to obtain some funding. Discussion was held about accessing services such as the YWCA in Omaha, the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition, and the CLAS Coalition to ask for assistance in helping with funding for the workshop. Ms. Brown emphasized that we need to provide awareness to the deaf and hard of hearing communities about mental illness. Ms. Wendel stated she would look at the mental health budget for supporting the domestic violence workshop but would not be able to provide any monetary support for food/refreshments and suggested that the committee will need to look for a sponsor to cover the food cost. Ms. Wendel supports the idea of other avenues that could be used in promoting the workshops. Ms. Williams informed the committee that the training with Marilyn Smith would not only be with the deaf and hard of hearing community but a separate training would be held for shelters so that their programs could become more accessible for deaf and hard of hearing women. The Domestic Violence committee will be meeting to discuss Phase II & Phase III further.

- D. Independent Living Task Force – Ms. Williams explained that she is setting up an Independent Living Task Force to determine what can be done to provide better independent living services for deaf and hard and hard of hearing people. An outline reflecting the objective, issues, meeting participants and the meeting agenda were handed out for the committee's review. Discussion was held about the agenda items and recommendations were made regarding cultural sensitivity and accessibility to delivery of services. Input was provided on the facilitation approach for the meeting.
- E. Training Updates – Ms. Williams handed out a list of training/awareness activities that she had conducted for 2007. She talked about "Ms. Peggy's Etiquette" workshop she offered to the statewide Regional Program students and passed out a pre and post test that was conducted with all students.
- F. Members Terms – This agenda item was discussed in 1A under Approval of August 21, 2007 minutes.

- G. Letter to Dr. Brookhauser – Ms. Williams reported that she and Ms. Wendel sent a letter to Dr. Brookhauser, Director for Boys Town National Research Hospital requesting a meeting with him to discuss mental health accessibility of deaf and hard of hearing children at the Boys Town Youth Treatment Center.

3. New Business

- A. Minimal Sign Language Standards for Mental Health Practitioners – Tabled until next meeting
- B. Legislation – Cost of Interpreters/Behavioral Health – Tabled until next meeting.

4. Announcements

Ms. Bird gave a program update on events/activities with the Southeast Nebraska Regional Program.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2008, 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Omaha State Office Building, 1313 Farnam on the Mall, 3rd floor in room G.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.